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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.

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Chorley.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1944.

Mr, Chairman and Members,

I present herewith my report for the year 1944. It is again abridged but I look forward to the future when it will be possible once again to submit a more detailed report both of the conditions in the District and the work actually carried out.

Area.

There has been no alteration in the boundaries and the area remains 41,111 acres.

Population.

This is estimated at 14,540.

Inhabited Houses.

These are numbered at 7,250.

Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the District is £172,2[illegible], a penny rate representing £695.

The social conditions are those of an agricultural and industrial District. Diversion of labour has continued so that some industries have lost personnel while others have gained. Agriculture, cotton and rayon spinning and weaving and coal mining however still account for a large number of workers in the District. The Royal Ordnance Factory of course employed considerable numbers from the District and large numbers from outside. Basket making is still carried out in one parish. There has been no unemployment amongst fit persons.

The Staff of the Public Health Department is as follows:-

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)	John Rigby M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.	R.H.Grayson, Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.	A.Fowler Cert. R.S.I.

A temporary junior clerk was appointed during the year, the clerk having been away in the forces since the commencement of hostilities.

Laboratory Services and Hospitals.

The laboratory services have not changed, swabs are examined at the nearest general hospital. They can be delivered by hand and so avoid the delay in the postal service.

Ambulances.

The Ambulance Service for accidents and general cases is provided by arrangement with the Municipal Borough of Chorley.

For infectious cases the ambulance kept at the Isolation Hospital is always available.

Nursing Service.

The Queen Alexandra Nursing Service operates in this District. In some cases parishes have joined for this work and maintain a nurse who is provided with motor transport. This service is satisfactory and efficient for both sickness and maternity.

The Midwifery Service run by the County Council covers the whole of the area.

The local hospital has clinics including V.D. and skins.

Birth Rate.

Live Births.	Total	Males	Females.
Legitimate	464	228	226
Illegitimate	20	11	9
	474	239	235

The Birth Rate per thousand of the population is 13.3 compared with 17.6 for England and Wales.

Death Rate.

Deaths	Total	Males	Females.
	246	141	145

The Death Rate per thousand of the population is 11.6
The Death Rate for England and Wales is also 11.6.

Maternal Deaths.

There were numbered 2 giving a rate of 4.2 per thousand births.

Still Births.

Total	Males	Females.
16	7	9

The rate per thousand births is 33.5

Infantile Deaths under 1 year.

Total	Males	Females.
16	7	9

Deaths from:-	Males	Females.
Cancer	25	26
Measles	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diarrhoea. (under 2)	1	0

Infectious Diseases

The Infectious Diseases are admitted to the Heath Charnock Hospital under the Chorley and District Joint Hospital Board.

Puerperal Septicaemias are admitted to the Sharoe Green Hospital at Preston, under arrangement with the County Council.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year.

The immunisation of children has carried on during the year. As in previous years the family doctor has carried out the immunisation. The number immunised during the year was 191, of whom 129 were under school age.

At the end of the year it is estimated that 492 representing 24.7% of children under school age, and 2,183 representing 64.8% of children ranging from five to fifteen years of age were immunised.

Whooping Cough Vaccine has also been available for medical practitioners in the area.

The notified diseases are tabulated over-leaf.

Table of Notifiable Diseases.

	Total cases notified.												
	Total cases at all ages	Age Periods - Years.											
		UNDER 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over.
Smallpox													
Scarlet Fever	69	2		5	3	6	40	7	2	4			
Diphtheria(including membranous croup)	13	2				1	4		2	3	1		
Enteric Fever(including Paratyphoid)	1											1	
Measles excluding German Measles.	84	2	8	8	9	5	40	8		2	2		
Whooping Cough	94	10	8	16	13	7	34	3	2	1			
Acute pneumonia	19	2	1	2		1			2	2	3	4	2
Cerebro-spinal fever													
Puerperal pyrexia													
Acute Poliomyelitis													
Acute Polio-encephalitis													
Encephalitis lethargica													
Dysentery													
Ophthalmia neonatorum	4	4											
Erysipelas	6									2	1	2	1
Malaria:- Contracted in this Country:-													
Abroad:-													
Any other diseases notifiable in District													
Any other diseases.													
Totals :-	290	22	17	31	25	20	118	18	8	14	7	7	3

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Tuberculosis.

No difficulty has been experienced in carrying out the Tuberculosis Regulations. Tuberculosis Officers have again given valuable help.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 ...								
1								
5				3				
10			3	6				
15		1						
20		1	1					
25	3	1		1		1		
35		2		1		1		
45		1		1	2			
55	3	1		1	1			
65 and upwards								
Totals ...	2	7	4	13	3	2		

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The bulk of the water supplied in the District is obtained from Manchester Corporation who have it under constant supervision.

With the exception of a few parishes and isolated parts of other parishes, the water supply of the District is good. Available labour and materials in the future should enable extensions and improvements to be made so that very few houses in the area will be without a supply of wholesome water under pressure.

Sewerage.

Ten parishes out of the twenty parishes of which the area is comprised have sewerage schemes covering the whole or part of the parish.

Where the parishes sewage is conveyed to an outfall works in another District, the Council has six outfall works. None of these are modern neither are they very efficient. The Council have, however, several schemes either prepared or under consideration for improving existing schemes and draining some parishes not at present possessing a main drainage scheme, and for the renewal and enlargement of the outfall works and the provision of a new disposal system. Any work of this nature has of course been out of the question during the year, but it should be looked upon as one will as soon as conditions improve; until such work is carried out no large scale schemes for closet conversions is possible.

Housing and Dwellings.

No large scale conversions have taken place during the year, and the numbers of small closets and privy middens in the District is still very great.

Rodent Control.

Early in the year the County Council delegated powers under the Rat and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and under a national scheme operated by the Ministry of Food the work of Rodent Control was actively carried out during the year.

SCAVENGING.

As in the year 1943 because of inability to get contractors to do this work the Council was obliged to increase the area scavenged by direct labour. A third motor refuse collector was obtained for this work. The Council now owns three lorries and scavenge half the District, the remainder being done by contract.

Both wet and dry scavenging are carried out and owing to labour difficulties, it has been difficult at times to keep on top of the job. The time and cost involved in emptying pail closets and privy middens is considerable and a point worth noting is, that provision of adequate sewering of the area and conversion of closets will reduce the annual cost of this work.

Salvage work has again been carried out and every attempt made to get as much material as possible returned to industry.

CAMPS.

No camping licences were issued during the year. Van dwellers of the caravan type have not been numerous but have on occasion called for a certain amount of control.

FOOD SAMPLES.

No action was taken during the year.

SCHOOLS.

There are 32 schools in the Rural District.

With few exceptions they are supplied with water from public mains and in all cases a piped supply is provided.

Twelve of the schools are provided with water closets, the remainder have closets of the pail type; a difficulty in this connection with the shortage of labour as it is today, is inability to empty the closets when the school is closed.

HOUSING.

Owing to housing work has not been possible during the year, defects have been dealt with under the Public Health Act. One very noticeable thing this year was that the difficulty of owners of property to get the builders to undertake the work of repairs, it has been the exception to get them quite ready to repairs carried out without considerable delay.

I am of the opinion that a considerable amount of overcrowding will be found when it is possible to devote time to this important work, and the number of houses in the area which are occupied by more than one family, due to married sons or daughters being obliged to live with their parents, will be found high. In a lot of cases this will not mean overcrowding at the moment but with the return of service men and the probability of increases in families, separate accommodation will be needed by fairly large numbers.

In connection with housing a most important thing took place during the year the publication of the Third Report of the Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee, better known as the 'Hobhouse' Report. It is pleasant to note that the Joint County Committee recommended in the report mentioned were formed in Lancashire and that Technical Sub Committees on which your Clerk, Surveyor, and Sanitary Inspector served were also formed. A comprehensive and practical report, a copy of which you have had, was produced by the Sub Committee, sound suggestions for facilitating housing work and new laws required to allow existing houses to be brought up to a reasonable standard were made in it. I understand copies of the Report have been sent to the Ministry of Health and it is hoped that nothing less than the standard recommended in the Report will be considered suitable. It will however be some time before it is possible to embark on the removal of houses which have definitely served their purpose and alteration of the remainder so as to make them conform with this standard.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

The centralisation of slaughtering has relieved this District of the duty of carrying meat inspection. A certain amount of work has however been carried out in retail premises and food depots.

MILK SUPPLY.

The number of milk producers on the register is very high, the production of milk having been encouraged by the Agricultural Committee. It was possible to carry out more routine work than has been done for some time, 555 visits being made. The producers in the District at the end of the year numbered 425.

DAIRIES AND MILK.

There are no particular plants in the District, but two supplementary licences allowing pasteurised milk to be retailed in the area were issued during the year.

DISINFECTIONS.

[illegible] disinfections were carried out during the year.

PETROLEUM STORAGE.

Four licences to store petroleum were issued during the year.

No licence to store Calcium Carbide was issued.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

During the year the total inspections made were 2,343.

INFORMAL NOTICES.

The total number of Informal Notices served was 558

The total number of Informal Notices complied with was 506.

STATUTORY NOTICES.

Six Statutory Notices were served and all were complied with.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN RIGBY.

Medical Officer of Health.